Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 COME-00 TRSE-00 XMB-02 JUSE-00 L-03 AID-05 FRB-03 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 H-01 SSO-00 INRE-00 /039 R

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY JAKARTA IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, BGEN, ID

SUBJECT: DOMSAT CASE

- 1. COPY PROXMIRE-DUBRUL CORRESPONDENCE ON THIS SUBJECT HAS BEEN POUCHED TO BARDACH.
- 2. IN HIS FEB 8 REPLY DUBRUL RECOUNTS SEP 74 MEETING OF EXIM STAFF WITH CHEATHAM, WHO THEN REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS PRESIDENT OF COMTRAD CORPORATION, AN ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA, CONSULTANT TO GT AND E. HE ALLUDED TO NECESSITY FOR "PAYOFFS" IN INDONESIA BUT APPARENTLY NAMED NO NAMES. FOLLOWING CHEATHAM'S SUGGESTION, EXIM STAFF MET NEXT WITH WILLIAM L. BELL, THEN AN OFFICER IN INTERNATIONAL NICKEL CORP WITH EXPERIENCE IN INDONESIA, WHO DID VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO CORROBORATE CHEATHAM'S STATEMENT. ALTHOUGH IT HAD ONLY UNSUBSTANTIATED ALLEGATIONS OF PAY-OFFS FROM CHEATHAM, EXIM STAFF NEVERTHELESS PURSUED MATTER WITH HUGHES AIRCRAFT, BY THEN THE SUCCESSFUL BIDDER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ON DOMSAT PROJECT. HUGHES EMPHATICALLY DENIED MAKING OR AGREEING TO MAKE ANY PAY-OFFS. IN VIEW VAGUENESS OF PAY-OFF ALLEGATIONS, LACK COOROBORATING EVIDENCE, AND HUGHES' DENIAL OF PAY-OFFS, EXIM STAFF SAW NO REASON TO CONTACT DEPT OF JUSTICE AT THE TIME TRANSACTION WAS BEING CONSIDERED. PRELIMINARY COMMITMENT WAS SUBSEQUENTLY

APPROVED IN OCT 1974 AND LOAN ITSELF IN JAN 1975. UNDER LOAN TERMS HUGHES WAS OBLIGED TO SIGN STANDARD SUPPLIER'S CERTIFICATE THAT IT HAD NOT MADE ANY EXTRAORDINARY PAYMENTS AND THAT IT WOULD NOT DO SO. MOREOVER, HUGHES MUST MAKE A SIMILAR CERTIFICATION EACH TIME IT MAKES A DRAW-DOWN ON EXIM LOAN.

- 3. DUBRUL ASSURED SENATOR PROXMIRE THAT BANK LOOKS INTO ANY SITUATION WHERE IT HAS REASON TO BELIEVE THAT IMPROPER PAYMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE. BANK'S ABILITY AND POWERS TO INVESTIAGE SUCH MATTERS, HOWEVER, ARE LIMITED. WHEN BANK UNCOVERS ENOUGH INFORMATION TO WARRANT FURTHER ACTION, IT TURNS MATTER OVER TO DEPT JUSTICE PROMPTLY. IN ADDITION TO REQUIRING SUPPLIER CERTIFICATES, WHOSE FALSIFICATION CAN BRING CRIMINAL PROSECUTION, BANK HAS SINCE MAY 1976 REQUIRED SIMILAR CERTIFICATION FROM THE BORROWER.
- 4. SHARP RISE IN PROJECT COST ESTIMATES BETWEEN OCT 1974
 AND JAN 1975 (FROM 91.6 DOLS TO 153.4 MILLION DOLS)
 WAS ATTRIBUTED BY DUBRUL TO: 1) SHIFT FROM USE OF 1973
 COST DATA TO USE OF 1975 COST DATA AT TIME OF RAPIDLY
 RISING PRICES; 2) WHEREAS COST ESTIMATE SUBMITTED WITH
 APPLICATION FOR PC HAD INCLUDED 15 PERCENT ALLOWANCE
 FOR CONTINGENCIES AND COST ESCALATION, COST ESTIMATE
 SUBMITTED WITH APPLICATION FOR LOAN HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT
 OF FACT THAT HUGHES CONTRACT WITH GOI WAS FIXED PRICE
 CONTRACT WITH NO COST ESCALATION PROVISIONS AND WAS
 THEREFORE SET AT LEVEL WHICH HUGHES HOPED WOULD PROTECT
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IT AGAINST DOUBLE DIGIT INFLATION THEN BEING EXPERIENCED IN U.S.; 3) THERE WAS AN INCREASE IN AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT BEING PROCURED; AND 4) ESTIMATE FOR LOAN REFLECTED MORE ACCURATE DATA ON GOODS AND SERVICES REQUIREMENTS COMING FROM FINAL ENGINEERING REPORTS.

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Message Attributes

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